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MEDIA RELEASE

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Former Milwaukee Alderman Michael McGee Jr. Sentenced to 6 ½ years in Prison

Steven M. Biskupic, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Wisconsin, announced today, that former Alderman Michael McGee Jr., of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, was sentenced by the Honorable Judge Charles N. Clevert to 6 ½ years in prison. McGee was found guilty on June 24, 2008 after a seven day trial, of two counts of extortion, one count of attempted extortion, five counts of corrupt solicitation, and one count of avoiding CTR filing requirements for a \$15,000 cash wire transfer .

McGee was indicted after a year-long investigation which commenced when a constituent store owner contacted the FBI and reported that McGee was shaking down business owners in his aldermanic district in exchange for McGee's support in obtaining or renewing liquor licenses, zoning variances, 24-hour permits, and other issues before the Common Council. At trial, the government proved through the testimony of numerous business owners, as well as body-wire and wire tap recordings from McGee's cellular telephones, that McGee was regularly shaking down constituent business owners for his political support, and was demanding money, food, free cell phones and minutes, and other things of value from these business owners, who were fearful of McGee's power to revoke their liquor licenses or otherwise create problems for their businesses.

At trial, wiretap and body wire recordings were played wherein McGee termed himself the "gatekeeper" for licenses in his district, and was heard demanding and collecting thousands of dollars from several business owners. McGee was also heard discussing the immense power he anticipated having because of his impending appointment to the Licenses Committee in Spring 2007, and requested for the purpose of holding a fund raiser from City Hall staff the contact information and addresses for all 1,200 business owners in the City of Milwaukee who hold liquor or beer licenses.

According to United States Attorney Steven Biskupic "the evidence at the trial showed that Michael McGee Jr. was one of the most corrupt elected officials in Milwaukee's history. Although his sentence was below that recommended by the government, his case should serve as a deterrent for other elected officials who may prey on their constituents."